

For Immediate Release
Katherine Broadnax, PLTW Engineering Instructor
219-989-7316 ext. 1828
kabroadnax@hammond.k12.in.us

Morton Senior High School Receives \$5,000 Best Buy Teach Award

2009 Best Buy Teach Awards Program Gives \$2 Million Schools Nationwide for Integrating Interactive Technology into the Classroom

Hammond, Indiana March 19th, 2009 – Morton High School announced today that it has received a \$5,000 Teach Award from Best Buy Co. Inc. for integrating interactive technology into its classroom curriculum.

Morton's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering program wrote a grant proposal to address the needs of notebook computers (laptops), a mouse for each of those notebook computers, a camcorder, and accessories for the camcorder. PLTW recommends workspace combined with computer access for three to five major projects in three different courses of PLTW curriculum. Morton has those three courses however not enough workspace at the current desktop computers in the classroom. The purpose of the notebook computers (laptops) is to provide computer access for projects that require workspace. The projects are Marble Sorter, The Date of Birth Problem, and Orthopedic Implants. The purpose of the camcorder and accessories are to document projects and student presentations. Students will review and do self-evaluations on their presentations.

This year, Best Buy Teach Awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, have been given to more than 460 schools to sustain or enhance existing educational programs. Building on its connection with @15, Best Buy's platform to connect with teens, 15 9th-grade programs were awarded \$10,000 for technology-based programs they've successfully implemented.

"Teachers are finding creative ways to engage students by using technology hands-on we want to support their efforts by helping them enhance or expand these programs," said Paula Prahl, senior vice president public affairs, communications, public affairs, and corporate responsibility, Best Buy Co. Inc. "We know that schools are the cornerstones of these communities where our employees, customers, and their families live and work."

Since 2003, the Best Buy Teach Awards Program has rewarded schools that creatively integrate interactive technology into their curricula. Over the past five years nearly 6,000 schools nationwide have received \$17 million in Teach Awards in Teach Awards, reaching 1.5 million